

The recipients this year—a Catholic nun from Belmont, an Episcopal priest from Oxford, and a dynamic young woman from Sunbury—are no less remarkable.

During its history, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation has made grants of more than \$240 million to projects in all 100 counties in North Carolina. While the Foundation's geographic boundary of North Carolina is firm, the Foundation's grantsmaking strives to be far-reaching. It often seeks to initiate rather than to react, to question rather than to accept, to challenge rather than to affirm. The Foundation currently gives special attention to certain focus areas—community economic development, the environment, pre-collegiate education, issues affecting minorities, and issues affecting women.

LATIN AMERICA: PROGRESS IN DEMOCRACY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, while members were in their districts for the recent recess, several countries in Latin America and the Caribbean held important political elections. In every instance, these elections were seen as free, fair and transparent as observed by representatives of the international community. These success stories have once again demonstrated the growing acceptance and strength of democracy in the region. This nation has worked very hard to promote regional democracy through our Agency for International Development as well as through our efforts here in the Congress. As Chairman of the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, I believe we can be very encouraged by the progress that is being made and we should commend those nations, and others, for their commitment to democracy and free and open elections.

I also want to commend the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean for the economic progress they are making as many of them progress to open market economies. According to a recent report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean experienced their best economic performance as a region in almost twenty-five years averaging a rate of growth of close to 5.3 percent while experiencing an average inflation rate of just 11 percent. This is truly good news and serves to reinforce the fact that the region is making steady and impressive progress.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate President Janet Jagan of Guyana, President Carlos Flores of Honduras, Prime Minister P.J. Patterson of Jamaica, President Miguel Rodriguez of Costa Rica, as well as all of the candidates for Congress and municipal seats in both Chile and Colombia who won their respective elections.

Mr. Speaker, I am submitting a brief description of several of the elections which took place during the recess.

Colombia—On October 26, 1997, Colombia held nationwide municipal elections. These elections portrayed the worst and best aspects of modern Colombian democracy. Unfortunately, leftist rebels (a.k.a. "narco-guerrillas") attempted to disrupt the elections, especially

in the rural areas which they control, by kidnapping and murdering many of the candidates. These efforts were modestly successful in twenty municipalities where elections were not held. Despite this disruption, and more positively, over 10 million Colombians voted, showing their strong support for the electoral process. The right to choose municipal officers is only about ten years old, so this affirmation of that right is encouraging, considering the rebels and drug lords assault on Colombia's democracy.

Guyana—The December 1997 presidential election was won by Janet Jagan's People's Progressive Party (the Chicago-born widow of the former president). However, this election was significant in that the opposition People's National Congress fomented rioting for several weeks after disputing the election results, charging fraud in the victory of the People's Progressive Party. Many experts, including those at International Foundation for Elections Systems, agreed that there were irregularities, but doubted that they had any conclusive impact on the outcome. Recently, the opposition signed an agreement with President Jagan to accept the results of the vote and end the street demonstrations.

Honduras—The November 1997 presidential election was momentous for the fact that it allowed the citizens for the first time to vote in their residential districts using new national identity ID cards. As a result, there was much less confusion for voters and irregularities were held to a minimum as the Liberal Party's Carlos Flores won the presidency. Importantly, the army played a vital role of supporting democracy. Observers noted that if it had not been for the army's help in transporting the ballots and election results, the chances of fraud and diminished public confidence would have been much greater. The Honduran governments is committed to addressing problems for future elections as well: turnout has dropped off somewhat, and the voter list is not as accurate as it should be.

Jamaica—The December 1997 parliamentary elections witnessed the historic second re-election of Prime Minister P.J. Patterson's People's National Party over the Jamaican Labour Party and the National Democratic Movement. While the elections were mostly free and fair across the country and the results are not in dispute, international observers, which included President Carter and Gen. Powell, noted that Jamaican politics still suffers from the problem of the garrison communities in the capital of Kingston. These are parts of the city wherein one of the major parties is dominant by means of patronage or intimidation; therefore, election results continue to return few or no opposition votes in these communities.

Chile—The December 1997 congressional elections resulted in victory for the Concertacion, the center left ruling coalition, and improved showings for both the hard right and the hard left; the more moderate left- and right-wing forces did worse than last time out. Aside from some poll workers showing up late for work, a commonality in Latin America, and a high abstention rate, there were no irregularities, and the vote represents for many observers evidence that Chile's democracy is quite stable.

HONORING WHITE HOUSE HIGH SCHOOL STATE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS FOR AN OUTSTANDING SEASON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the accomplishments of a dedicated group of young men who worked together in the true spirit of sportsmanship to achieve a long-awaited goal.

The group is the White House High School Blue Devils football team of White House, Tennessee, and that goal was winning the state 3-A championship game. Their hard-fought victory, and the hard-work and dedication they demonstrated throughout the year will not go unnoticed.

After all, they were honored as Region 4 Champions, 3-A State Champions and had a perfect 15-0 record. The team also had 5 Associated Press All State players, 2 Tennessee Sportswriters All-State players and 8 All Region 1st team members.

These men of White House High School trained vigorously, played tirelessly, and deserve recognition for a job well done.

I congratulate each member of the team, their Head Coach, Jeff Porter, and all the assistant coaches, managers, school administrators and all other support staff. I know they won't soon forget this milestone, and those that are still to come.

The players are true champions: Jarod Jullierat, Corey Coker, Joey Rodgers, Jim Smith, J.R. Carroll, Andy Tucker, Ryan Sherrill, James Harper, Chris Barnes, Rudy Farmer, Brock Waggoner, Brian Whittaker, Josh Lanus, Jonathan Finch, Josh Barton, Chuckie Jarrett, Clint Ruth, Brent Bunn, Josh Harrison, Eddie Carrigan, Jeremy Perry, Alan Hargrove, Jon Shelton, Adam Smith, Jim Stacey, Brian Jones, Jon Simpson, Jason Faulk, Chad Rogers, Josh Ahmic, Roger Smith, Chris Gaddis, Chris Laroy, Tyler Judge, Scott Hawkins, Will Bush, Aaron Holmes, Jeremy Adcock, Ryan Cole, Jesse Sharp, Kevin Harris, Dustin King, Joseph Dillehay, Justin O'Guin, Josh Widener, Nathan Jarrett, Joe Bledsoe, Daniel Gray, David Mapes, Andrew McGregor, Jessie Wagner, Michael Day, Matt Armistead, Josh McEarl, Adam Hanes, Jason Buckner, Ryan Holmes, Jonathan Miller, Mychael Smith, Ricky Ellis, Eric Carpenter, Clinton Van Der Westhuizen, Gary Adcock, Darrell McDaniel, Robert Keene, Brandon Barker, Joe Armistead, Casey Nash, Brandon Scott, Todd Stephens, and Pete Bloodworth.

HONORING RENEE NOLAN AND FRIENDS

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 4, 1998

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of remarkable young women in the 11th District of New Jersey and to share with my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives a story of selflessness and friendship.